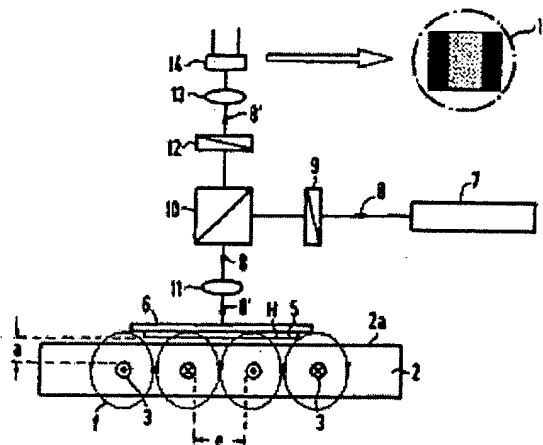


Detecting covered current paths in highly integrated circuits - using magneto=optical film and device to produce contrast image

Numéro du brevet: DE4021359
Date de publication: 1992-01-09
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Demandeur: SIEMENS AG (DE)
Classification:
 - internationale G01R19/08; G01R33/032; G01V3/08; H01L21/66
 - européenne G01R31/315; G01R33/10; G01R33/032C
Numéro de demande: DE19904021359 19900705
Numéro(s) de priorité: DE19904021359 19900705

Abrégé pour DE4021359

The method of detecting covered current paths in a body (2) which are insulated w.r.t. a free surface (2a) involves detecting a magnetic field of known strength at the surface caused by currents flowing in the conducting paths. The free surface is covered by a thin film (5) of magneto-optical material with magnetic anisotropy with a defined orientation of the easy magnetisation direction. The magnetisation normal to the surface depends essentially linearly on the field. The instantaneous magnetisation state in the film influences the magneto-optical rotation angle to appear as a contrast image (15) in a magneto-optical device (14).
 USE/ADVANTAGE - E.g. for fault detection in highly integrated circuits. For convenient location and testing of concealed current paths without ingress.



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